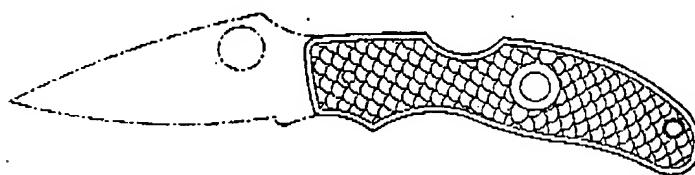


Attorney's Reference Number: 1201-023/ddh

2. Remarks.

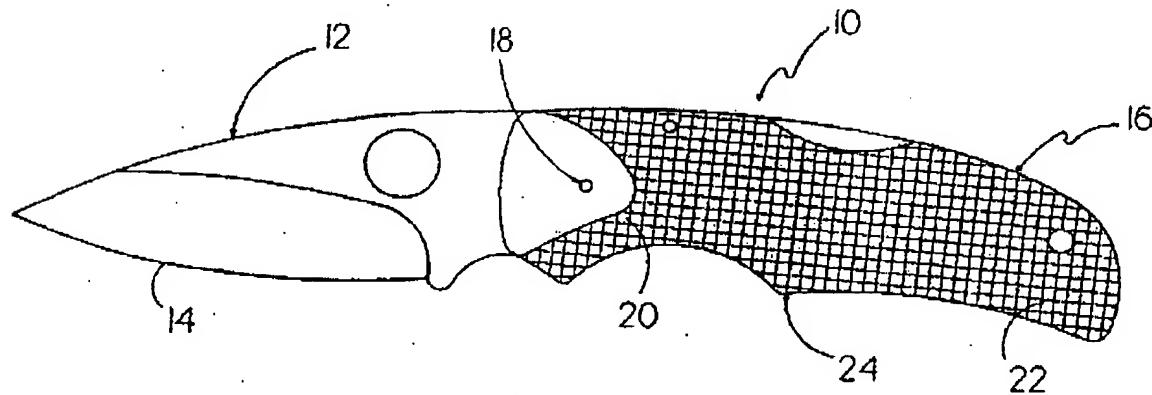
All of the claims are rejected as either anticipated by, or obvious in view of two patents to Glessner, taken either alone, or in the case of the § 103 rejections, in combination. The independent claims are amended herein to structurally distinguish the claimed invention from the Glessner patents.

In every embodiment of both Glessner patents, the handles show and teach ridge patterns where the ridges either overlap one another, or transect one another, or both.

*Fig. 1*

For example, Fig. 1 from the Glessner design patent (421,378) is reproduced on the left. Note that each semi-circular ridge formed on the handle is transected by at

least two other adjacent ridges. Thus, each ridge line curves around and terminates where it transects the leading portion of an adjacent ridge line.

*Fig. 1*

Likewise, in every embodiment in Glessner US patent no. 5,689,890 (Fig. 1 from which is reproduced above), every ridge that extends generally transverse to

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Attorney's Reference Number: 1201-023/ddh

the longitudinal axis of the handle is transected by at least several ridges that extend along the long axis of the handle.

The invention claimed herein is structurally very different, and each independent claim is amended to point out these important differences. Most notably, in the claimed invention, the ridges extend only in the direction generally transverse to the long axis of the handle. Figs. 2 and 3 from the subject application are reproduced below.

FIG. 2

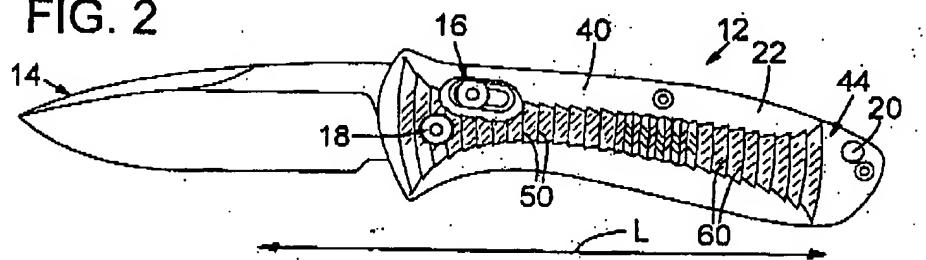
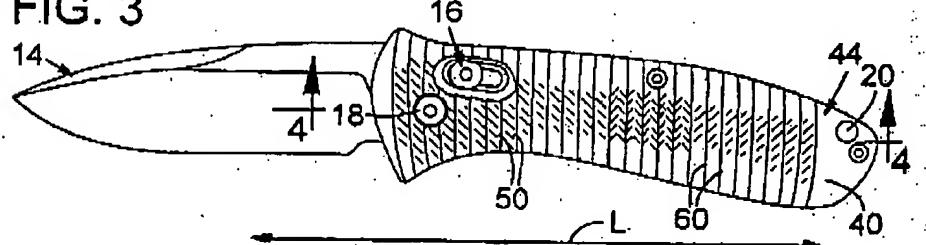


FIG. 3



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The invention illustrated above has at least three notable structural features that are distinguishable from each embodiment from the Glessner patents: in the subject invention, (a) no ridge lines overlap, (b) no ridge lines transect one another, and (c) there are no ridges extending in the longitudinal direction.

The claims are amended to call out these structural distinctions.

Claim 1 is amended to point out that none of the ridges overlap and such that there are no ridges extending along the longitudinal axis. This is structurally distinguishable from both of the Glessner patents, each of which shows (a) ridges that overlap, and (b) ridges that extend in the direction of the longitudinal axis.

Attorney's Reference Number: 1201-023/ddh

Claim 10 is amended such that each ridge extends in the direction transverse to the long axis without overlapping another ridge, and such that there is no ridge transecting another ridge.

Claim 16 is amended to recite that no ridge transects another ridge.

These structural distinctions now recited in the independent claims are neither shown or taught by Glessner, nor suggested by the combination of the two patents. Thus, neither of the Glessner patents discloses a handle having non-overlapping ridges that are not transected by neighboring ridges. Instead, in each case and in each embodiment, Glessner teaches that the handle must include transecting ridges.

The functional effect of the claimed ridges is significant because the entire outer surface of the handle that is occupied by the ridges defines a series of uninterrupted ridges extending transverse to the directions (forward and rearward) that force is normally applied to the handle during use.

Each of the independent claims is allowable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. The independent claims are allowable based on dependency from allowable independent claims, and for the limitations they add to the independent claims.

For the reasons noted, and in view of the amendments made herein, all of the claims in the application are believed to be allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas D. Hancock
Registration No. 35,889

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ipsolon llp
805 S.W. Broadway, #2740
Portland, Oregon 97205
phone: (503) 249-7066

cc: Les de Asis

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